

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 4 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. HAK SAYS KHMER POL- MIL SITUATION HAS IMPROVED AND
C- F NEGOTS MAY BEGIN SOON. IN WH NEWS CONFERENCE
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LAUNCHING PRESIDENT' S STATE OF WORLD MESSAGE, KISSINGER
SAYS HE NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT LONG- TERM PEACE PROSPECTS
IN INDOCHINA AND BELIEVES VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES CAN BE
AMELIORATED. IN RADIO ADDRESS ON MESSAGE, PRESIDENT

NIXON EXPRESSES HOPE INDOCHINA PROBLEMS AND CAMBODIA C- F CAN BE RESOLVED AT CONFERENCE TABLE, BUT " WE WILL NOT TURN OUR BACK ON OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES WHILE HANOI MAKES A MOCKERY OF ITS PROMISE TO HELP KEEP THE PEACE." MESSAGE STATES COMMUNIST MILITARY BUILDUP IN SVN " MUST CEASE," AND MAKES CLEAR THAT " WE HAVE TOLD HANOI, PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS (NYT). POST; S MARDER- FEATURES PRESIDENT' S WARNING TO HANOI THAT IT RISKS - REVIVED CONFRONTATION" IF IT EXPLOITS C- F WHEN US IS SEEKING REDUCE WORLD TENSIONS.

2. AMB. BUNKER IN FIRST SPEECH IN 15 MONTHS TELLS SAIGON AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ICCS HAS HAD RESTRAINING EFFECT AND NUMBER OF LARGE BATTLES HAS FALLEN OFF. BELIEVES GVN AND PRG ARE SERIOUS IN PARIS

POL TALKS, BUT SEES CONTINUING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR SVN (NYT). REUTER PARIS REPORTS PARIS POL TALKS CONTINUE DEADLOCKED OVER ELECTIONS. PRG SPOKESMAN CHARGES 20,000 US MILITARY ADVISERS REMAIN DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS (NYT, WP).

3. VC SAY THEY FIRED AT US RECON PLANE IN AREA WHERE ICCS CHOPPERS WERE FIRED AT. GAUVIN SAYS OBSERVERS AT SPOT WHERE CHOPPERS WER- ATTACKED SAW NO US AIR- CRAFT IN VICINITY (NYT).

4. SUN' S CORDDRY SAYS WASHINGTON SOURCES REVEAL 2 NVA DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN NORTH INTO NVN FROM QUANG TRI PROVINCE BUT 3 DIVISIONS REMAIN THERE. ESTIMATED 145,000 TO 170,000 NVA REMAIN IN SVN.

5. CSM' S SOUTHERLAND BREAKS BREAD WITH FAMILY CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF ANCESTOR, IN VILLAGE HEAVILY DAMAGED BY WAR AND IS SURPRISED TO HEAR ARVN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLDIER- RELATIVE ACKNOWLEDGE AREA IS " LIBERATED ZONE." VILLAGE CLEARLY BELONGS TO VC AFTER DARK.

6. SAIGON MILITARY SOURCES TELL REUTER NVN HAS VIRTUALLY TAKEN CONTROL OF HUNDREDS SQUARE MILES OF FORMER NO- MAN' S LAND SOUTH OF DMZ. NVN CIVILIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED INTO AREA AND CROPS BEING GROWN (CSM).

7. KI RENEW ATTACKS ON PP' S SOUTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER AND NEW FIGHTING REPORTED ALONG MEKONG. TWO FANK BATTALIONS STILL MISSING AFTER POSITION OVERRUN BY KI, ALLEGEDLY USING GAS. FIGHTING CONTINUES AT TAKEO (NYT). US PHANTOMS BOMB MEKONG BANKS THREE MILES FROM PP IN ADVANCE OF FANK (NYT, WP). AP (CSM) REPORTS THOUSANDS

OF REFUGEES SEEK REFUGE IN PP. GKR ESTIMATES OVER 700,000 COUNTRY- WIDE. LAST 2 MONTHS OF INTENSIFIED FIGHTING MAY HAVE GENERATED 20,000 NEW REFUGEES. WESTERN REFUGEE RELIEF WORKER SAYS GKR IS NOT OVER- EXERTING ITSELF TO HELP REFUGEES.

8. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEFEATS BID TO DENY FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA BOMBING BY 31 TO 14 VOTE. FLOOR FIGHT ANTICIPATED NEXT WEEK. ALBERT SUPPORTS DEM POLICY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION URGING HOUSE DEMS DELETE SPENDING AUTHORITY INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL. MAHON SAYS ALBERT'S VOTE REFLECTS CHANGING HILL MOOD. MATHIAS SUBMITS RESOLUTION CALLING ON PRESIDENT CEASE ALL MILITARY OPS IN INDOCHINA THAT WERE NOT APPROVED BY CONGRESS. MANSFIELD SAYS IF PRESIDENT

DOESN'T HEED THIS SENATE "ADVICE" HE WILL SEEK CUT OF BOMBING FUNDS. TOWER CHARGES MATHIAS WOULD "SERVE NOTICE" ON HANOI THAT US DOESN'T HAVE RESOLVE OR STRENGTH TO ENFORCE C- F.

9. AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PM BARNARD DENIES THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO REFUSE TRAINING ANY MORE THAI OFFICERS AT AUSTRALIAN MILITARY COLLEGES (AFP, WP).

10. WP CALLS SECRETARY'S LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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CAMBODIA BOMBING "ENTIRELY SPECIOUS" AND APPROVES MATHIAS' RESOLUTION -- ADVISING PRESIDENT CEASE ALL HOSTILITIES IN INDOCHINA -- AS PROPER AND NECESSARY MEANS FOR SENATE TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION TO ADVISE PRESIDENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ASIDE FROM LEGAL ASPECTS, POST SAYS THAT BY BOMBING TO SUPPORT LON NOL, PERHAPS EVEN MORE BY REARRANGING GKR, US ASSUMES UNWISE MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT GOVERNMENT. TO WHAT END?

11. LAT (MAY 3) REGARD AS "WRONG" THE APPLICATION BY US OF PRINCIPLE OF A CHEAT FOR A CHEAT IN SEA AND THREATENING BROADER US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. QUOTES SULLIVAN AS CONCLUDING HIS RECENT PARIS TALKS WITH WARNING TO NVN THAT EITHER THEY FULLY IMPLEMENT C- F OR US WILL RETURN "TO THE UNFORTUNATE MILITARY SITUATION TO WHICH WE HOPED TO PUT AN END BY SIGNING THE AGREEMENT." CONSIDERS SECRETARY'S LEGAL JUSTIFICATION "MORE THAN SPECIOUS, IT IS DANGEROUS, FOR IT DIGNIFIES A DOUBTFUL SEIZURE OF POWER BY THE PRESIDENCY AND SEEKS TO PERPETUATE THAT POWER EVEN AFTER THE LAST TROOPS, AND THEREBY THE LAST AMERICAN INTEREST, HAVE BEEN REMOVED." TO MEMORANDUM ASSERTION THAT TO STOP US BOMBING "WOULD UNDERMINE THE CENTRAL ACHIEVEMENT OF

THE JANUARY AGREEMENT," LAT SAYS CENTRAL ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT WAS TO GET AMERICANS OUT OF INDOCHINA.

12. WSJ'S KEATLEY REVIEWS PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT. CITES AMONG KEY POINTS PRESIDENT'S BLUNTEST WARNING YET THAT IF NVN INCREASES ATTACKS, "IT WOULD RISK REVIVED CONFRONTATION WITH US"; AND LACK OF PROGRESS IN CAMBODIA, WHERE MILITARY SITUATION IS "PRECARIOUS." (NOTES THAT IN PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, HAK HELD OUT SOME HOPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. KEATLEY EXPRESSES VIEW THAT ANY COMPROMISE REACHED IN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RETURN SIHANOUK TO AT LEAST NOMINAL CHARGE).

13. RE MOSCOW, KEATLEY NOTES PRESIDENT'S COMPLAINT UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT USSR APPARENTLY STILL SENDS LARGE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO HANOI, AND OBSERVES THAT HAK WAS EVASIVE WHEN ASKED ABOUT MAGNITUDE OF SHIPMENTS.

14. AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY (4/23) CARRIES 10 PAGES OF DETAILED BOMB DAMAGE PHOTOS TAKEN OVER HANOI AREA AFTER INTENSIVE BOMBING CAMPAIGN IN DECEMBER. FAULTS ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT HAVING MADE THESE PHOTOS AVAILABLE EARLIER AND THUS LOSING LARGE MEASURE OF CREDIBILITY; SAYS THEY OFFER FIRST PUBLIC EVIDENCE THAT MOST US CLAIMS ABOUT NATURE AND EFFECT OF BOMBING CAMPAIGN WERE INDEED CORRECT AND THAT CLAIMS MADE BY HANOI AND ITS AMERICAN DUPES WERE LARGELY FALSE. EVIDENCE CLEARLY SHOWS THAT CITY WAS NOT CARPET- BOMBED, THAT DAMAGED AREAS WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY CONFINED TO RAILROAD YARDS, AIRFIELDS, POWER PLANTS, RADIO STATIONS AND MILITARY REPAIR AND STORAGE AREAS, AND THAT BAC MAI HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS DAMAGED AND NOT DESTROYED, WAS ON EDGE OF BAC MAI MILITARY AIRFIELD -- A MIG-21 INTERCEPTOR BASE AND LOCATION OF CENTRAL CONTROL CENTER FOR NVN AIR DEFENSIVE SYSTEM.

15. LAT (MAY 3) SEES IN RECENT USSR LEADERSHIP CHANGES NOT ONLY STRENGTHENING OF BREZHNEV'S ECONOMIC POLICIES, BUT STIFFENING OF MILITARY AND IDEOLOGICAL POSITION. INDICATES THAT OFFER OF EXPANDED US TRADE COULD SERVE AS INSTRUMENT IN PERSUADING BREZHNEV PRESS HANOI TO WORK FOR CAMBODIAN C- F AND END TO INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MATERIEL INTO SVN. RUSH

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